Improvement Committees. The community felt their position keenly. They desired that their members should come in as a matter of right and not as a favour. For more reasons than one, it would not be possible for Mahomedans to get elected as Members by the general voters of the taluks. The Mahomedan voters were very limited and as such their candidates could not afford to compete successfully with candidates from other communities, merely on the strength of communal voting. There were also not many Mahomedans in the country who could command the influence to get them returned by a mixed electorate.

Dewan.—Do you know whether any Mahomedan gentleman actually stood for election and failed ?

Member.—I cannot give specific instances.

The Member, therefore, prayed that the Government might be pleased to grant to the Mahomedans a separate electorate as was granted to the Jenmis of Travancore and the Planters. The Padmanabhapuram and Devicolam Divisions might be given a separate electorate each and the other three Divisions two electoral circles each. The arrangement would ensure the return of 8 Mahomedan Members to the Assembly as a matter of right. The difficulty of the Government in selecting half the number every year from all the Divisions for nomination as Mahomedan Members would also be obviated. The Member added that the minority sections of the Hindu or Christian communities could not reasonably complain against the above concession as their members were being elected by the taluk voters every year.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

160. Concessions for the people from the Government.

Mr. K. M. Mathula Mappila (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) said that the necessity for easy means of communication was keenly felt by the people. Year after year, representations were being made by the Members, especially of the central and northern taluks of Travancore for affording facilities of easy communication. The Government had not taken any active steps on such representations. In fairness to the Government, it must be said that to undertake all the public works desired by the Members was an utter impossibility. The whole of the State revenue might not suffice for completing all the works wanted by the several Members. The Government were not, therefore, to be blamed for the apparent indifference in the matter. The clamour for more public works was, however, growing day by day. It was, therefore, high time that the question was successfully tackled.

The Member then made the following suggestions for adoption to meet the above situation :—

(1) For meeting local needs, responsible Associations or Boards should be formed in each *pakuthi*.

(2) Such Boards should be authorised to levy a small cess under certain items with the sanction of the Government.

(3) The Government should help such Boards by granting contributions to the extent of the amount realised by them as local cess or double that amount.

(4) Taluk Boards should be formed with the representatives of the *pakuthi* Boards as members.

(5) Division Boards should also be established with the representatives of Taluk Boards as members.

(6) The power to levy cess should be vested only in the *pakuthi* Boards.

(7) Matters affecting the Taluks and Divisions should be freely discussed in the Taluk and Division Boards. The required funds for the same should be contributed by the *pakuthi* Boards.

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(8) The power to elect members of the *pakuthi* Boards should be vested in the people. The power to elect members from classes, not largely represented, might be vested in the Government.

(9) The Boards should be authorised to attend to matters affecting irrigation works, means of communication, education and sanitation.

The Member added that the people were quite ready to pay the extra cess that might be imposed upon them for meeting their local needs and that in several taluks they had already spent much money for putting up building for schools, for opening roads, etc. He prayed that the proposals made by him might receive early consideration.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VII. EDUCATION.—(*concluded.*)

161. Certain difficulties of Private School Managers.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappila (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) spoke first about the grant-in-aid system. That the Managers of private schools were discharging more than half the responsibility of educating the children of the State was evident from the number of pupils receiving instruction in Departmental Schools and those under private management. In regard to the cost of maintaining schools and educating a pupil also, the amount spent by Managers was, in no way, small. In dealing with the points mentioned above, the Member gave figures for the past five years. Having shown that the share of Private School Managers in the spread of education was, by no means, negligible, the Member proceeded to discuss the provisions of the Education Code which regulated the award of grant. Formerly, the grant was half of the pay in the case of trained teachers and one-third in the case of non-trained teachers. But now the distribution was made on a different basis (*vide* section 147 of the Education Code) which worked a good deal of hardship on the Managers. What was being done was that the excess of expenditure on actual income was being paid, after deducting a fraction, generally one-half of the expenditure, as the Manager's contribution. The Managers were required to satisfy the conditions of the Code in regard to school building, furniture, equipment and other details, every one of which meant a good deal of expenditure. Further, the salary of the teachers was another item which was a heavy drag on the financial aspect of management. In view of the hardship the Managers were suffering from, the Member requested that section 147 B of the Education Code be expunged and that a capitation grant of Rs. 3 per pupil be awarded. The only possible objection would be that his proposal might entail a larger expenditure ; but the additional expenditure would amount to only about Rs. 10,000 and that ought not to be grudged in view of the help the Managers would receive for the work which, without them, would solely have to be done by the Government. The Member submitted that the Managers' Conference had also passed a resolution in regard to capitation grant.

The next point was about the teaching of music. The Member's suggestion was that a Committee might be appointed to prepare a text-book of music, the Committee being composed of the Lady Principal, H. H. The Maha Raja's Girls' College, Inspectress of Girls' Schools and the Head Mistresses of Private Schools.

The Member then suggested,—

(1) that male teachers should not be appointed in Girls' Schools,

(2) that an examination should be instituted for *Bhagavathars* and that only those who came out successful should be appointed in Girls' Schools and,

(3) that male Drill Instructors should not teach drill to girls of the higher classes.

The next point dealt with by the Member was about the inequality in regard to the pay of the teachers in Elementary and Secondary schools. While the Head Master in an Elementary school was paid Rs. 20, the Drawing Master in a Secondary school was paid Rs. 40. Similarly, there was great disparity in the pay of the holders of School Final Certificates in Elementary schools and Secondary schools, Sewing Mistresses, &c. Such a disparity ought to be removed.

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